

# Report on Bachelor Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Samuel Mayr
Advisor:	PhDr. Ladislav Křišťoufek, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Do crypto-currencies form a new asset class?

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

The main aim of the thesis is to follow the famous paper of Rama Cont (2001, Quantitative Finance) and compare the statistical properties of the most traded crypto-currencies with the stylized facts about other asset classes – mainly stocks (stock indices) and FX rates. This is reflected in a rather unorthodox structure of the text, i.e. a mixture of methodology and results, which, however, pays off quite well here. Samuel has performed a detailed analysis of Bitcoin, Litecoin, and Ripple. Even though the analysis is affected by data issues connected to a historical erratic behavior of the crypto-currencies, the results are quite straightforward.

The thesis brings forward interesting results and the analysis is undertaken properly. The biggest issue is in the results reporting. The results are rather stated and not really explained or discussed, which is a shame. The text then sometimes turns into a statistical exercise without evident contribution. Due to this, I believe the thesis does not deserve the highest points, yet still it passes for the **grade A**.

## **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Contribution (max. 30 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	19
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>83</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>1</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** PhDr. Ladislav Křišťoufek, Ph.D.

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 2.9.2015

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**Referee Signature**

**EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
20                          10                          0

**METHODS:** *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
30                          15                          0

**CONTRIBUTION:** *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
30                          15                          0

**MANUSCRIPT FORM:** *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
20                          10                          0

**Overall grading:**

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	<b>1</b>	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	<b>2</b>	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	<b>4</b>	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě